

The African American Association of Georgia, AAAG, gives the opportunity for our youth to work with positive professional athletes in an up close and personal setting. The AAAG has demonstrated a spirit of giving, service and leadership to our district. Our district, families and community have benefited from the AAAG working to build a strong foundation in the lives of our youth mentally and physically.

The AAAG has worked tirelessly to give their best to preserve integrity, mentor our children and to build our future. The AAAG is currently sponsoring the 2007 Sports Festival Track and Field Meet and I was pleased to proclaim July 21, 2007 and July 22, 2007 as African American Association of Georgia Days in the Fourth Congressional District.

#### WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CONNIE MACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2007*

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a bill that is critical to improving our country's water quality and infrastructure, the Water Resources Development Act.

I am glad we're finally able to pass a WRDA conference report. For far too long, Congress has stalled on moving this critical legislation, creating a backlog of projects in the country, including many in Southwest Florida.

This legislation is vital to protecting our environment and improving water quality in Florida and the rest of the country. The bill will help to restore the Everglades and parts of coastal Louisiana affected by hurricanes. It will also assist in protecting our beaches and coastal areas from floods and storms and is vital in facilitating commerce at our Nation's waterways and ports.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will pay untold dividends in the years to come. We all agree that our children and grandchildren deserve to inherit a fiscally responsible government, but we also agree that they deserve to inherit clean water, clean air and a healthy environment.

I hope that the President won't act on his veto threat and instead will sign WRDA into law. We need this legislation to protect our environment for future generations. We can't delay in moving forward on these critical infrastructure projects.

#### TRIBUTE TO CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICE, INC.

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2007*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of Americans who should have been honored years ago for their service and sacrifice to the United States during the Vietnam war. For a period of 10 dangerous years, between 1965 and 1975, over 260 pilots and ground crew members flew over regions in Southeast Asia. They were the Continental Air Service Inc., CASI, personnel.

CASI was a subsidiary of Continental Airlines created at the request of the CIA to back up air service in Southeast Asia for another CIA airline, Air America. CASI personnel flew support missions for U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Operations Mission, the CIA, and other government agencies. The countries CASI covered include Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, and Singapore.

CASI pilots deserve to be recognized by our Government. These pilots played a vital role during the Vietnam war delivering hard rice, food, medicine, and other supplies. Moreover, CASI pilots were sent on many secret missions to rescue American troops. Madam Speaker, I would like to point out these were not easy missions. CASI pilots flew for 10 years in the most unfavorable conditions: there were limited air traffic controllers in most regions, the unpredictable weather made flying dangerous, and their planes were constantly under enemy fire. As most of their flights were covert operations, the pilots could not even talk about their experiences with their own families.

CASI pilots flew the same missions, shared the same airstrips, and sacrificed their lives in America's war effort as did Air America pilots. In fact, CASI and Air America operated side by side for U.S. AID during the war. On June 2, 2001, the CIA honored Air America and Civil Air Transport for their part in the war effort: however, the CASI pilots and crew did not receive the same recognition. Many CASI pilots have passed away and some air crews are still missing in action in Laos.

After 32 years, the time has come to honor these individuals who sacrificed their own safety for the safety of our American soldiers and for our country.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the gallant pilots and crew members of Continental Air Service Inc.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ASIAN CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2007*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many organizations strive to bring awareness and enlightenment to our community.

The Asian Cultural Experience has been a unique showcase for different Asian cultures in the Metro Atlanta area.

The past 14 years have been and continue to be a great gift of music, dance, food, art, native crafts, and fashion of the many different Asian countries from around the world.

We have found a jewel in this annual event that touches the minds and hearts of so many. Our community has been strengthened, our lives have been touched, and our spirits uplifted.

The 2007 Asian Cultural Experience is being presented at the Atlanta Botanical Garden on July 14–15, 2007. I was pleased to proclaim July 14, 2007, and July 15, 2007, as the Asian Cultural Experience Days in the 4th Congressional District.

#### TRIBUTE TO WALTER HART UPON EARNING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. CONNIE MACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2007*

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter Hart of Lehigh Acres, Florida upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boys Scouts of America.

Mr. Hart's honor is truly significant because he earned the rank 70 years after completing the requirements for the award. Before he could collect his award, Mr. Hart joined the Navy and served for 2 years aboard the USS *Alfred A. Cunningham* during World War II.

Mr. Hart earned 23 merit badges during his time as a Boy Scout, fulfilling requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. As only 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Mr. Hart's accomplishment is quite notable and worthy of distinction.

Mr. Hart's service didn't end with the Boy Scouts. He fought for our country overseas during World War II and continued to serve his community at home when he returned from the war—no doubt in part because of the skills and values he learned as a member of the Boy Scouts. Mr. Hart is part of a prestigious group of accomplished men who have served our country well.

Madam Speaker, I know the people of Southwest Florida join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Hart upon this great honor. We're proud of him and all of his accomplishments. I wish Mr. Hart and his family all the best as he continues to serve our community as an official Eagle Scout.

#### CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDI- CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2007*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. This is a landmark measure which touches on many aspects of our national health care system. It forestalls a potentially devastating cut to physician payments through Medicare that would imperil our senior's access to their doctors. It also expands assistance to our lowest income seniors so they get the help they need to afford life-saving medication.

But most important, the bill we are debating today will extend the life changing benefit of health insurance to five million more American children. That means five million parents who won't have to bring their child to the emergency room because they're running a fever. Five million parents who can take their child to a dentist if their teeth hurt. Five million parents who can take care of their children in a way we all take for granted—that when they're sick, they can go to the doctor.

SCHIP has been an incredible success story, extending the benefits of health care to six million children, about 750,000 in California